

2025 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2192

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2192
1/20/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for accreditation grants for community providers.

10:35 a.m. Vice-Chairman Weston opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

Discussion Topics:

- Reimbursement costs
- Independent community facilities
- Elimination of accreditation
- Community based services audits
- Clinical Quality Language
- General Services Association

10:36 a.m. Senator Lee District 13, introduced the bill.

10:38 a.m. Angela Dinius, Executive Director of ND Association of Community Providers, testified in favor and submitted testimony #30031.

10:45 a.m. Lorena Poppe, President of ND Association of Community Providers, testified in favor and submitted testimony #30038.

10:50 a.m. Sargianna Wutzke, Lead Operations Officer of Community Options, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29993.

10:53 a.m. Scott Burtsfield, Executive Director of Vocational Training Center, testified in favor and submitted testimony #30062.

11:01 a.m. Johnathan Alm, Chief Legal Officer at ND Department of Health and Human Services, answered committee questions.

11:05 a.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

Senator Lee and Members of Senate Human Services,

My name is Sargianna Wutzke, and I am the Lead Operations Officer of Community Options, a statewide agency that provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities. I am here in support of SB 2192. I have worked for community provider organizations for over 20 years and have been a part of half a dozen accreditations in two different provider organizations. Currently, provider organizations are accredited by the Council on Quality Leadership and the accreditation lasts up to four years. Last session, the department did not put accreditation of provider organizations in their budget despite doing that previously. We had our accreditation in 2024 and had to pay approximately \$25,000 for our accreditation.

This session NDACP is going to ask for accreditation to be voluntary as organizations feel that the state does a very thorough job with their oversight of provider agencies which is far greater than the accreditation that takes place by an outside organization. The state ensures quality assurance of each agency by monitoring all general event reports (incident reports) of each agency as well as doing training and monitoring with each agency every three years where they go over those incident reports with administration as well as the DD Program Administrator. Every three years, the State Home and Community Based Surveyor comes and does a survey of each agency. Agencies that provide ICF level of care have surveys by Title 19 yearly. On top of these, any agency that is representative payee for an individual is subject to extremely thorough financial audits by Protection and Advocacy.

If it is decided that community providers have to continue to get accredited by an outside organization, agencies would like the state to support with payment of the accreditation. An accreditation is expensive for an organization especially those that are just starting as a provider. Again, I encourage a Due Pass on SB 2192. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sargianna Wutzke

Lead Operations Officer-Community Options Inc.

Senate Human Services
Senate Bill 2192
Monday, January 20, 2025

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

I'm Angela Dinius, the executive director of the North Dakota Association of Community Providers (NDACP). Our members are 31 of the organizations across the state that provide essential services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). We appreciate the introduction of this bill. We support this bill and would like to offer a few suggestions.

We ask the committee to eliminate the mandate for accreditation and make it optional. While accreditation can enhance service quality, it is an unfunded mandate that places a significant financial and administrative burden on the providers.

If the committee chooses to retain mandatory accreditation, we ask the state to fully fund the cost. The proposed allocation of \$240,000 in this bill is an important step, but additional funds may be necessary for the full obligation.

We would like to address a significant concern regarding the scope of accreditation. In the past when the state covered the accreditation costs, only the DD services were accredited. However, when organizations are required to cover the cost of accreditation, the accrediting companies require that the entire organization be accredited, including non-DD services. For example, some providers also run nursing homes or provide mental health services. DD accreditation does not fit with those services. This also adds unnecessary expenses for the organization. If the state covers accreditation costs again, accrediting entities would limit their accreditation to the organization's DD services.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for considering our recommendations. I am happy to answer any questions.

Angela Dinius
ND Association of Community Providers

Senate Human Services Committee
Judy Lee, Chair
Senate Bill 2192
Monday, January 20, 2025

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lorena Poppe. I am the President of the ND Association of Community Providers (NDACP) and the owner/CEO of Poppy's Promise, a provider of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 2192 and to thank the sponsors for bringing this bill forward.

Accreditation is currently mandated as a condition of being licensed as a provider through the Developmental Disabilities Section of the ND Department of Health & Human Services (NDDHHS). Until just over 18 months ago and for many years, the cost of accreditation was funded by NDDHHS. I understood this to be because it is a requirement of the state. Since July 1, 2023, providers have been expected to shoulder the burden of accreditation expense which, in the Spring of 2023, was estimated to be just over \$640,000 for the 2023-2025 biennium. Individual provider cost for accreditation can be upwards of \$30,000 or more depending on the size of the organization. This type of expense is simply not affordable, especially for small organizations with limited revenue or those new to the industry. It can feel for many providers that they are being penalized for wanting to build organizations to provide critical support and services for people with disabilities.

As an association, NDACP is asking that accreditation no longer be mandated as there are a number of other quality measures in place to address the areas covered by accreditation. If it continues to be a mandate for DD services, it only makes sense for the state to again assume the cost of accreditation as providers will still be dealing with the significant administrative burden created by the accreditation process. Discussions about accreditation that I've been involved in as the President of NDACP have brought more questions than answers. Are other services within NDDHHS required to be accredited? Is the state providing funding for accreditation outside of the DD Section?

As the committee works through this important bill, please know that NDACP and many individual providers are available and willing to provide additional information that may be needed by the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Lorena Poppe
Poppy's Promise

Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 2192
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chair
January 20, 2025

Good morning, my name is Scott Burtsfield, and I am the Executive Director for the Vocational Training Center, a licensed service provider for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, located in Fargo, North Dakota.

I first wish to thank Chairman Lee and fellow members of the Senate Human Services Committee for the opportunity to speak to you about Senate Bill 2192. We are in full support and appreciate this bill which is designed to offset the financial burden of accreditation costs that have been shifted to providers licensed to deliver disability services in the state of North Dakota.

As a service provider in ND, we are mandated to undergo the accreditation processes as a requirement for licensing. The Council for Quality and Leadership, or CQL, has historically been the accrediting body contracted by the state of North Dakota. CQL is focused on ensuring supported individuals are living meaningful and fulfilling lives, are part of the community, and that the organization provides quality, person-centered services for people supported.

The costs of this accreditation vary depending on the size of the organization's DD budget. For an example of the cost...this past spring my organization spent approximately \$25,000.00 on this process. These costs do not even include the hours and hours of employee time as well as food, meeting rooms and other associated expenses and resources required to complete the accreditation. It does, however, include the \$2,000.00 for our 18 month, 30 minute "check-in" phone call.

Until fairly recently, NDHHS would cover the costs of this process. Unfortunately, during the 2021 ND legislative session, unbeknownst to the state's providers at the time, the Department of Health and Human Services shifted all associated costs of the accreditation process to the service providers. This created an incredible and unexpected burden for many.

Thankfully, the department acknowledged this burden and provided assistance for some during the transition period. However, after July 1, 2023, DD providers were required to pay all fees associated with the accreditation process as funding and spending authority were not included in the North Dakota Health and Human Services' 2023-25 appropriation.

This past spring CQL announced a change in strategy for their accreditation process. In a clear money-grab, they stated they will now begin accrediting all services provided by a participating organization. This new approach applies to every service an organization provides – even those well outside the DD field. For providers delivering additional, ancillary programs and services not associated with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, this would substantially increase the costs of accreditation.

As a result, NDDHHS has researched and suggested a few alternative accreditation bodies for providers to contact. In doing our comparisons we have found that, while we will finally have a choice of accrediting agencies, the recommended bodies still carry an exorbitant cost, doing nothing to eliminate the burden placed on providers.

As many of you already know, the state's providers of I/DD programs spend close to, if not well over, 80% of their budget directly on salaries and benefits for Direct Service Professionals (DSP), and rightfully so. Our DSPs are undeniably invaluable as the core personnel providing direct care services for North Dakota's most vulnerable citizens.

Though troublesome for all, shifting the cost burden to providers has placed an extreme hardship on various small providers who are already barely surviving paycheck to paycheck. For those organizations, choices must be made between necessary resources and finding or allocating monies to ensure accreditation has been completed.

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services committee, I respectfully implore you to pass Senate Bill 2192 and provide an appropriation to the NDDHHS to offset the burdensome and excessive costs placed on providers to meet accreditation standards as required by the department as a condition of licensing.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

I am available to answer any questions you may have.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2192
1/22/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for accreditation grants for community providers.

2:06 p.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

Discussion Topics:

- Allowable Accreditation costs
- 15% Governors cut
- Prospective Payment System
- Rate review

2:07 p.m. Tina Bay, Director of ND Department of Health and Human Services, testified in neutral and submitted testimony #30788 and #30789.

2:37 p.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

Accreditation Options For ID/DD Agency Providers



As of January 1, 2025, per NDAC 75-04-01, the Developmental Disabilities Section will be allowing some flexibilities regarding accreditation. The department will begin recognizing and accepting accreditation from accreditation entities included in this packet.

This packet aims to provide some preliminary information regarding each of the department approved accreditation entities. This structured comparison provides a quick snapshot of each of the options to assist providers in making informed decisions based on their specific needs and preferences. This should not substitute completing your own research into the available options.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this packet is for general informational purposes only and is not intended as professional advice. While we strive to keep this document accurate and up to date, it may not reflect the most current information. Always consult with the accreditation entity in question.

Join us to learn more:

Wednesday, November 13, 12:00-1:00pm CST

About

Social Current is the premier partner and solutions provider to a diverse network of human and social service organizations. Together with our network, we are activating the power of the social sector to effect broader systemic change that is needed to achieve our vision of an equitable society where all people can thrive.

****Does not accredit healthcare or nursing services, so would not accredit EHHC.**

What does the accreditation process look like?

- Combination of a self-study and an on-site visit. It involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization or program's administrative functions and service delivery practices. All are measured against international standards of best practice.
- **Will need to begin 12-18 months in advance.**
- Provider sends in an application and accreditation agreement.
- Intake and assessment
 - You are assigned a dedicated Accreditation Coordinator who serves as a single point of contact.
- Self-Study
- Site Visit
- Ratings Report & Pre-Commission Review
- Accreditation Decision
- Maintaining Accreditation
 - Must complete an annual report indicating maintenance of standards.

Are there different levels/types/terms of accreditations? If so, what do these look like?

- Four-year accreditation.
- Private Organization, Public Agency, etc.

Do you accredit the provider or the services?

- Services/programs – Requires accreditation of all programs offered by the agency.

Are there specific programs/services eligible for accreditation? If so, which ones are eligible?

- Most organizations that achieve COA Accreditation are private organizations and receive **full-organization accreditation**. We conduct in-depth reviews of all services for which we have standards, as well as administration and management practices.
- **Will not accredit EHHC.**

What are the focus areas for accreditation?

- Based around their Standards.
- Standards are updated every 3 years.
- These are available at no cost online.

Are there visits in between the overall accreditation cycle?

- No, however the provider is required to submit an implementation of standards annual report to ensure maintenance of the standards.

What are the costs involved?

- The cost varies based on an organization's size and services.
- Sliding scale fee. Two pieces - accreditation fee (based on annual revenue) 500,000 sections. Site visit fee - 2 reviewers for 2 days standard but based on this. Starts 15,000 total at the 500,000.

What supports do you have available for providers? (Webinars, newsletters, workshops, etc.)

- Every organization gets an accreditation coordinator specific to them. Typically, there is a monthly call with this coordinator.
- Offers free on-demand trainings.
 - Includes self-paced trainings and recorded webinars.
 - Have a portal with self-paced optional trainings, PQI, logic models, variety of sources.
- Standards are available online and tables of evidence are available as well.

References

COA Accreditation - (social-current.org)

Standards - Social Current (social-current.org)



About

NADD is an association for persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental health needs, comprised of individuals, families, and support professionals dedicated to enhancing the understanding and treatment of people experiencing co-occurring intellectual/developmental diagnoses (IDD) and mental health conditions.

*At least 10% of DSPs, Specialists, and Clinical Staff must be NADD IDD/MI Dual Diagnosis Certified.

*Must meet this threshold by end of the initial accreditation period.

***Has not accredited Early Intervention programs.**

What does the accreditation process look like?

- Providers would need to send in an application to become a member.
- NADD will learn why you are getting accreditation and what you'd like help with.
- Typical accreditation consists of 2 accreditors over 2 days but may take up to 4 accreditors 4 days.
- Feedback occurs "in the moment" in addition to at the exit meeting.

Onsite, virtual, or hybrid visit consists of:

- Interviews: treatment team members, medical and behavioral health, program administrators and direct care staff
- Records Review/Clinical Practice Assessment
- Policy Review
- Outcomes, Feedback and Consultation

Are there different levels/types/terms of accreditations? If so, what do these look like?

- There is one type of accreditation. This will be granted based on meeting of standards.
- Three-year, two-year, one-year, or non-accreditation.

Do you accredit the provider or the services?

- Accredits the programs – Will only require accreditation of the programs the provider wishes to take through.
 - Please note: All DD Services require accreditation.

Are there specific programs/services eligible for accreditation? If so, which ones are eligible?

- Accredits any/all services that work with or will potentially work with people that have an I/DD and mental health diagnosis.

What are the focus areas for accreditation?

- 18 competency areas – these will depend on the services provided by your agency.
- Are available at no cost online.

Join us to learn more:

Thursday, November 14, 12:00p – 1:00p CST

Are there visits in between the overall accreditation cycle?

- No visits are required between the accreditation cycles; however, they are available to assist as needed.

What are the costs involved?

- Membership fees are based on provider's revenue and range from \$50 to \$3500.
- Application cost of Accreditation is \$500, payable as a non-refundable fee; one application fee covers multiple programs in the same organization. Will accredit up to 8 Programs for the same fee.
- Accreditation Survey cost depends on the size and complexity of the program in question, based on a flat fee of \$3,000 per Surveyor per day plus travel expenses.
- There is a \$1,500 annual fee to maintain Accreditation, after the initial year. One annual fee covers multiple programs in the same organization.
- There are costs associated with certifying staff. For accredited agencies, the first 10% are free. After this, for accredited agencies, DSP Certifications cost \$50, Specialist Certifications cost \$225, and Clinical Certifications costs \$285. Requires renewal every 2 years for a fee.

What supports do you have available for providers? (Webinars, newsletters, workshops, etc.)

- NADD offers a partnership with them, but also offers collaboration with other accredited entities nationwide that may offer expertise in specific areas. They work to match you with surveyors and peers that meet your needs.

References

[Accreditation-Program-Manual-June-2023.pdf \(thenadd.org\)](#)

[Accreditation Competency Areas - The NADD](#)

[Scoring Tool - acp-survey.pdf \(thenadd.org\)](#)



Join us to learn more:

Tuesday, November 19, 12:00-1:00p CST

About

An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. To earn and maintain *The Gold Seal of Approval*® from The Joint Commission, an organization undergoes an on-site survey by a Joint Commission survey team at least every three years.

***Does not accredit Early Intervention Programs.**

What does the accreditation process look like?

- Application for accreditation and deposit and indicate the first date you think you'll be ready for your survey – this application should be submitted **at least 6 months in advance of anticipated accreditation date**. The Joint Commission assigns an account executive to be your primary contact. The survey should occur within 12 months of your application submission date.
- The Surveyors arrive "unannounced" or with short notice for most surveys (30-day notice for new providers, 7-day notice for reaccreditations).
- Tracing the supported person's experience, which involves observing services provided by various caregivers and programs within the organization, as well as hand-offs between them.
- On-site observations and interviews.
- Assessment of the physical facility.
- Review of documents provided by the organization.

****May include other activities depending on settings/supports provided.**

Are there different levels/types/terms of accreditations? If so, what do these look like?

- Valid for approximately 3 years
- Several setting types for accreditation, DD providers would utilize the Behavioral Health Care and Human Services setting.

Do you accredit the provider or the services?

- The organization – the standards applicability process identifies which standards apply to the various settings/populations your agency serves.
- Will require accreditation of all services offered by the provider.

Are there specific programs/services eligible for accreditation? If so, which ones are eligible?

- The standards applicability process identifies which standards apply to the various settings/populations your agency serves.

What are the focus areas for accreditation?

- Focuses on their standards.
- Available for purchase on their website.

Are there visits in between the overall accreditation cycle?

- Providers complete an 18-month check-in through their portal. Can opt in for and in-person visit.
- Once accredited, an organization will need to submit its Focused Standards Assessment at 12 and 24 months after a survey. The evaluation and plan of action should be completed electronically and transmitted to The Joint Commission.
- After submitting the evaluation and plan of action, the organization can, if desired, schedule a touchpoint conference call with staff from the Joint Commission's Standards Interpretation Group to discuss the FSA and resulting action plans.

What are the costs involved?

- Must submit \$1,700 deposit with application – is applied towards accreditation fees.
- Fees are based on a combination of an on-site survey fee billed during the year of the organization's on-site survey and an annual fee billed during the application year and in January of each year during an organization's accreditation cycle. Approximately 60% of the organization's total accreditation fees are due during the year of the on-site survey.
- On-site fee for a small organization starts at \$3,430. Annual fees for behavioral health care organizations start at \$1,990 per year and are adjusted based on the number of individuals served, the types of services and programs provided, and sites of care, treatment, or services. A fee calculator is available to help organizations estimate their fees.
- 2024 copy of Accreditation Standards - \$181
- 2025 copy of Accreditation Standards - \$219

What supports do you have available for providers? (Webinars, newsletters, workshops, etc.)

- Offers translated materials if necessary.
- Offers Mobile Notification of Onsite Surveys
- Offers a library of publications that apply to all health care settings and organizations. Includes books, manuals, and digital subscriptions for a cost.

References

- [2024 Behavioral Health Human Services Organization SAG \(jointcommission.org\)](https://www.jointcommission.org/)

About

CARF® International is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. Through accreditation, CARF assists service providers in demonstrating value by the quality of their services and meeting internationally recognized organizational and program standards.

What does the accreditation process look like?

- Must contact CARF to get started. Must be in compliance with standards 6 months prior to the survey. Accreditation decision can take up to 8 weeks. **Should reach out 12 months in advance to begin initial accreditation.**
- Conduct a self-evaluation.
- Submit a survey application.
- Invoiced for the survey fee and begin scheduling the survey.
- Survey team is selected.
- Survey is conducted.
 - Observation of services
 - Interviewing persons served and other stakeholders.
 - Review of documentation
- Accreditation decision
- Submit a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)
- Submit an Annual Conformance to Quality Report

Are there different levels/types/terms of accreditations? If so, what do these look like?

- Three-year and one-year term

Do you accredit the provider or the services?

- Accredits providers for their specific programs and services.
- Provider can choose which programs/services they want to accredit – will need to accredit all DD services.

Are there specific programs/services eligible for accreditation? If so, which ones are eligible?

- Multiple program areas that organizations can seek accreditation in.
- Business practice standards (ASPIRE and Excellence standards) are applied to all organizations regardless of programs.

What are the focus areas for accreditation?

- Based around their Standards.
- These are updated annually and are available for purchase online.

Are there visits in between the overall accreditation cycle?

- CARF reserves the right to survey an organization at any time if there are concerns about conformance to standards. It is very rare that this happens.
- Organizations are required to submit an annual conformance to quality report to CARF each year prior to their resurvey that includes any major updates and/or issues that the organization has experienced.

What are the costs involved?

- Fee is based on number of surveyors and days needed to complete the survey.
- For surveys conducted July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. This is based on the number of surveyors and days needed to complete the survey, which varies depending on the complexity of the survey. For an estimate, contact CARF. Fees include all surveyor expenses.
 - Application Fee - \$1095
 - Survey Fee - \$2040 per surveyor day.
 - Cancellation/Rescheduling Fee - \$2040 plus nonrefundable travel expenses
 - Manual –
 - Hardcopy - \$205
 - Download for 1 User - \$308

What supports do you have available for providers? (Webinars, newsletters, workshops, etc.)

- Include in-person trainings, virtual trainings, webinars, newsletters, and direct access to resource specialists that can assist in standards interpretation and suggestions for conformance. They also have access to many tools and templates for strategic planning.

References

[CARF Standards Manuals & Workbooks for Purchase](#)

[Resources - CARF International](#)

About

Since 1969, CQL | The Council on Quality and Leadership has been a leader in working with human service organizations and systems to continuously define, measure, and improve quality of life and quality of services for youth, adults, and older adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and psychiatric disabilities.

What does the accreditation process look like?

In-person, virtual, and hybrid visits

- Request for engagement **at least 6 months in advance of anticipated accreditation visit.**
- Planning – Once RFE is reviewed and approved, CQL works with organization to prepare for accreditation process.
- Self-Assessment – Organization completes a self-assessment to review how policies apply to practices.
- Validation – CQL completed on-site review by conducting focus groups, location visits, individual interviews, policy evaluations, etc.
- Award Letter – Provided to recognize the accreditation following the on-site review.
- Checkpoint visits – To maintain progress in improving quality between accreditation cycles.

Are there different levels/types/terms of accreditations? If so, what do these look like?

- Systems Accreditation – a one-year term designed solely for human service organizations that are not yet providing services.
- Quality Assurance Accreditation – a three-year term for agencies new to CQL, want to reinvigorate their quality framework, or have had significant leadership changes.
- Person-Centered Excellence Accreditation - a four-year accreditation, expanding upon the use of Basic Assurances®, Personal Outcome Measures®, and Shared Values.
- Person-Centered Excellence Accreditation, With Distinction - a four-year accreditation that applies the most stringent standards for human service organizations, requiring measurable results.

Do you accredit the provider or the services?

- Accredits the provider – will require accreditation of all programs the provider offers.

Are there specific programs/services eligible for accreditation? If so, which ones are eligible?

- Accreditation is grounded in an organization-wide approach that impacts diverse populations of people receiving human services.

What are the focus areas for accreditation?

- Uses their Basic Assurances®, POMs, and Shared Values
- Available for purchase on their website.

Are there visits in between the overall accreditation cycle?

- 12-to-18-month checkpoint, 36-month checkpoint.
- Your accreditation experience with CQL doesn't begin and end with the first visit. CQL embraces a partnership with those that achieve CQL Accreditation throughout the entire term, offering support, guidance, resources, check-ins, and insight.

What are the costs involved?

- Numerous factors influence the exact cost for accreditation including the size, scope of services, and specific needs of an organization. To assist in your budgetary planning, a general estimate is provided.
 - Systems Accreditation – Estimated cost \$5,250
 - Quality Assurance Accreditation – Estimated cost \$18,000 over the accreditation term
 - Person-Centered Excellence – Estimated cost \$22,500 over the accreditation term
 - Person-Centered Excellence, With Distinction - Estimated cost \$28,500 over the accreditation term
- Manuals are also available for purchase on their website. These cover Basic Assurances®, Personal Outcome Measures®, and Shared Values.

What supports do you have available for providers? (Webinars, newsletters, workshops, etc.)

- Along with visits during the accreditation term, CQL staff are available to discuss any support needs. CQL also provides resources including the Accreditation Webinar Series, Capstone articles, research publications, guides, manuals, PORTAL Data System access, etc.

References

[CQL Accreditation | The Council on Quality and Leadership \(c-q-l.org\)](https://cql.org/)

[Basic Assurances® Manual - The Council on Quality and Leadership \(c-q-l.org\)](https://cql.org/)

[Personal Outcome Measures® Manual for Adults - The Council on Quality and Leadership \(c-q-l.org\)](https://cql.org/)



FOLLOW UP – SB 2192

HHS requires accreditation for the following provider types:

- **Qualified Residential Treatment Providers (QRTP)** – federally required as per Family First Prevention Services Act and incorporated into state licensing expectations (NDAC 75-03-40-01(1)).
 - Approved accrediting bodies: Commission on Accreditation of Rehab Facilities (CARF), Joint Commission (JC), Council on Accreditation (COA). Any others require approval by federal HHS before department can approve
 - Impact: 2 providers (DBGR, HOTR)
- **Hospitals** – Accreditation for Medicare certification is voluntary; if a hospital is accredited, they may be permitted to be exempt from routine surveys (CMS-determined). In ND, as per NDAC 33-07-01.1-06, hospitals requesting licensure in accordance with national accreditation status shall comply with all requirements of this section. Licensure requirements not covered by the standard survey of an accrediting agency may be monitored by the department. For those portions of the accrediting agency survey report which the department accepts, the hospital will be considered to be in compliance with the corresponding licensure requirements.
 - Approved accrediting bodies: Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC), Center for Improvement in Healthcare Quality (CIHQ), DNV- Healthcare, The Joint Commission (TJC)
 - Impact: 18 providers accredited and deemed
- **Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs)** – federally required for a psychiatric facility that is not a hospital for individuals younger than age 21 and incorporated into state licensing expectations (NDAC 75-03-17.01)
 - Approved accrediting bodies: Commission on Accreditation of Rehab Facilities (CARF), Joint Commission (JC), Council on Accreditation (COA). Any others require approval by federal HHS before department can approve
 - Impact: 4 providers (DBGR, Pride Manchester, Nexus Path Luther Hall, HHS RMAC)
- **Providers of Intellectual / Developmental Disability services** – required by state as part of state licensing expectations (NDAC 75-04-01)
 - Approved accrediting bodies: Commission on Accreditation of Rehab Facilities (CARF), Joint Commission (JC), Council on Accreditation (COA), National Association for Dual Diagnosis (NADD), Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). Any others require approval by the department.
 - Impact: 45 agency providers (note: individual providers delivering self-directed services are not required to be accredited)

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

1237 W Divide Ave Suite 1A | Bismarck ND 58501-1208

701.328.8930 | Fax 701.328.8969 | 800.755.8529 | 711 (TTY) | www.hhs.nd.gov

- **Providers of Residential Habilitation and Community Support Providers – Adult & Aging services** - required by state as part of state licensing expectations (NDAC 75-03-21.1-06 (2), NDAC 75-03-21.1-07 (1)(a)(b)(c), and 75-03.21.1-11)
 - Approved accrediting bodies: Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL)
 - Impact: 27 community support and 25 residential habilitation providers

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2192
1/29/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for accreditation grants for community providers.

3:44 p.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

Discussion Topics:

- Grant for Biennium
- Community providers
- Serving individuals with developmental disabilities

3:47 p.m. Senator Roers moved amendment LC#25.0215.01001.

3:47 p.m. Senator Weston seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

3:49 p.m. Senator Clemens moved a Do Pass as amended and Rerefer to Appropriations.

3:50 p.m. Senator Hogan seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senate Human Services Committee

SB 2192

01/29/25

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Senator Hogan will carry the bill.

3:53 p.m. Chairman Lee adjourned the meeting.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

January 29, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

1-29-25

SENATE BILL NO. 2192

JB 1061

Introduced by

Senators Lee, Hogan, Sorvaag

Representatives Mitskog, Nelson, Pyle

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services
2 for accreditation grants for community providers.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**
5 **PROVIDER ACCREDITATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in
6 the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$240,000, or so much of the sum as
7 may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of providing
8 grants to reimburse community providers serving individuals with disabilities for costs of
9 obtaining and maintaining accreditation standards required by the department, for the biennium
10 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2192**

Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0215.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2192 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2025 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2192

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2192
2/11/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for accreditation grants for community providers.

9:28 a.m. Chairman Dever opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Dever, Senators Cleary, Davison, Magrum and Mathern

Discussion Topics:

- Community Provider Accreditation Reimbursement
- Individuals with Disabilities
- Accreditation Standards & Costs

9:30 a.m. Sarah Aker, Executive Director, Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) testified in neutral.

9:38 a.m. Angela Dinius, Executive Director, North Dakota Association of Community Providers, testified in favor.

9:47 a.m. Senator Davison moved a Do Not Pass.

9:48 a.m. Senator Magrum seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	N
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	N

Motion passed 3-2-0.

Senator Davison will carry the bill.

9:56 a.m. Vice Chairman Davison closed the hearing.

Joan Bares, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2192
2/13/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for accreditation grants for community providers.

9:33 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek.

Members Absent: Senator Dwyer.

Discussion Topics:

- Accreditation Requirements
- Accreditation Process

9:34 a.m. Senator Davison introduced the bill.

9:35 a.m. Senator Davison moved a Do Not Pass.

9:35 a.m. Senator Dever seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	N
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	A
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	N
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 13-2-1.

Senator Davison will carry the bill.

Senate Appropriations Committee

SB 2192

02/13/2025

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9:38 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED SB 2192 ([25.0215.02000](#))**

Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (13 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2192 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.